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LIBRARY

E E M O U T H U R B A N D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L .

A N N U A L R E P O R T

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T H O S . B R O W N . M . D . , D . P . H . ,

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H .

2 Analysis of Notified cases of Infectious Diseases according to Age-Groups.

Age Group.	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Whooping Cough	Measles	Diphtheria	Dysentery	Polio-myelitis.
0				3	9			
1				1	12			
2	1			10	20			
3				5	27			
4		1		10	20		1	
5	1			6	26			
10	2	1		7	85	1	2	
15				1	26			
20					3			1
35	1	1	1		1			
45	1	1	2		4			
65 & up wards.		1	1					
TOTAL.	6	5	4	43	233	1	3	1

Water Supply.

The water supply is from two sources, an upland surface collection and a deep borehole.

Squabmoor is the catchment area for the upland surface water and its untreated condition is unsatisfactory, but after filtering and chlorination yields a bacteriologically pure water. The main supply from Dotton borehole is at all times satisfactory. An additional borehole in the neighbourhood of Dotton is contemplated owing to the increasing demands from neighbouring villages.

The water from Squabmoor has a strong plumbo solvent action but the

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wise decision of the Urban District Council in insisting that all the pipes carrying drinkingwater shall be of galvanised iron, has prevented any ill effects to the consumers. Because of this provision it has not been necessary to make any analysis in this connection.

There is a small supplementary supply at Bystock. It is an upland surface supply and is pumped to a reservoir on Pine Ridge. It has been intermittently unsatisfactory in the past, but now pressure filters and an automatic chlorinating plant is being installed. When the alterations are completed, this supply should prove as regularly satisfactory as other sources.

Monthly bacteriological examinations are made so that a constant check is kept on the quality of the water. A bacteriological report dated 19.12.45 is given below:-

Bacteriological Examination of Water Samples.

Sampled. 17.12.45.

W1202 Higher Filters Reservoir:

Probable number coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml. = nil.

W1203 Lower Filters Reservoir:

Probable number coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml. = nil.

W1204 Bystock Reservoir.

Probable number coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml. = nil.

Examination of Water.

Sampled 27.9.46.

Bystock Pump Well.

Hardness Total. 5.6 Permanent 4.2 Temporary 1.4
 (Results expressed as parts per 100,000.)
 (As calcium carbonate) pH Value = 6.0 Zinc, copper and lead absent.

Action on Copper.

Solution of metal on successive days on the same piece of copper.

24 hours	0.27	parts	per	100,000	(approx	1/5	grain	per	gall.)	6.0
48 hours	0.33	"	"	"	(approx	1/4	"	"	"	6.0
72 hours	0.14	"	"	"	(approx	1/10	"	"	"	6.4
96 hours	0.22	"	"	"	(approx	1/7	"	"	"	6.2

There is some risk that this water, after standing for some time in copper pipes might cause staining, especially in the presence of alkaline soap.

Authorities consider that a wholesome supply should not contain more than 1/10 grain per gallon. There is however no evidence that cases of ill-health or poisoning have ever arisen from the consumption of copper in water.

Report on Examination of
Samples of Water.

23.6.45.

Pond Bystock.

Chemical. (Results expressed as parts per 100,000)

Hardness as calcium carbonate.

Temporary 2.6 Permanent 3.0 Total 5.6

Chlorides, as Chlorine 2.7

Ammonia, free and saline, as nitrogen .004.

Ammonia, albuminoid, as nitrogen .0256

Nitrates, as nitrogen .2

Oxygen (absorbed 3 hrs. at 37° C.) minute trace .08

Metals Zinc, copper and lead not detected.

pH Value 6.8

Remarks. Samples clear and free from sediment.

Bacteriological.

Probable number coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 c.c. 750

Faecal coli present in 10 ml.

Conclusions. These findings are indicative of gross pollution and the water is unfit for domestic use without treatment.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF WATER SUPPLIES.

5.

26.7 44.

Characters:	Lr. Filter Beds.	Squabmoor.	Dutton.
Colour	colourless	yellowtint	colourless
Turbidity	clear	clear	clear
Taste	natural	natural	natural
Odour	none	none	none
Suspended matters.	small amt. sand and organic detritus.	small amt. organic detritus diatoms.	none.

Analysis.	Lr. Filter Beds.	Squabmoor.	Dutton.
Chlorine present as Chlorides	2.4	2.4	2.4
Nitrogen present as Nitrites	trace	0	0
" " " Nitrates	0.56	0.025	0.82
Phosphates	0	0	0
Sulphates SO ₄	1.56	0.95	1.9
Free Carbon Dioxide	0.45	0.2	0.7
Total hardness equivalent to Calcium Carbonate	14.5	2.9	19.2
Temporary Hardness (annulled by boiling).	11.6	1.4	14.3
Perm. Hardness(not altered by boiling.)	2.9	1.5	3.9
Saline Ammonia	0.0070	0.0032	0.0052.
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0023	0.0046	0.0012
Oxygen Absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27 deg. C.	0.03	0.13	0.02
Oxygen Absorbed Immediately	0	0	0
Lead	0	0	0
Copper	0	0	0
Zinc	0	0	0
Iron.	0	0	0
Total Solid Constituents	25.0	9.3	25.5
Organic Matter observed in igniting the solid constituents.	trace	trace	none
Hydrogen Ion Concentration equivalent to pH.	7.7	6.8	7.5
Inc. calcium carbonate parts per 100,000 and Magnesium Carbonate parts per 100,000.	11.8 2.25	0.5 2.0	14.3 2.85

6.

The County Council is responsible for the supervision and treatment of cases of tuberculosis, venereal disease, maternity and child welfare, the care of premature infants and of illegitimate children.

Maternity & Child Welfare.

Although this service comes under the direction and control of the County Council the Medical Officer of Health attends the clinic that is held at the Exmouth Dispensary on two afternoons each week. This has been found necessary on account of the greatly increased numbers who now attend.

<u>Total no: of attend- ances of mothers.</u>	<u>Total no: of babies attending.</u>	<u>Total no: of toddlers attending.</u>
1748	1592	316
(of which 122 were new)	(of which 113 were new)	(of which 22 were new)

Diphtheria Immunisation.

A Clinic is held once a month at the Exmouth Dispensary and the Health Visitor has been energetic in her efforts to secure the attendance of any child who has been found to have escaped immunisation. The attendance of mothers at the Maternity & Child Welfare Clinics also presents an excellent opportunity for keeping a check on the babies as they approach the age of 1 year.

During the latter part of 1945 a mass reinforcing immunisation of all the school children was undertaken. Any child who had been immunised four years earlier was given a reinforcing dose to protect it during the rest of its school life. During this drive 1,068 children were treated.

Propaganda is still continued by advertisement and by poster and the response is very satisfactory.

The following are the figures for 1945.

	<u>Under 5.</u>	<u>Over 5 but under 16.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
No: of children who completed full course.	152	22	174.
No: of children who received re-inforcement doses.		1,066	

School Clinic.

This is held on Monday and Thursday mornings at the Exmouth Dispensary during the School Term and is continued on Thursday mornings during the holidays. It offers a valuable service to school children if many conditions are treated and clear up quickly, which if allowed to continue might incapacitate the child for long periods. Many mothers bring their children and are encouraged to do so, so that the opportunity for educating them in the elementary rules of health may not be lost.

The numbers of school children treated at the Clinic during the year was 3847 (of which 1021 were new cases.)

Infestation.

The incidence of scabies has decreased very considerably. Occasional cases are brought to light at school medical inspections. There has been no treatment centre in the town since the Sickbay, established by the Ministry of Health, at St. Luke's was closed during the autumn of last year. It was felt that control of this infestation could be maintained by school inspection, etc., and by the provision of supplies of Benzyl Benzoate Emulsion which are distributed free to those who need it.

The Head Clinic is still maintained at the Exmouth Dispensary and a nurse devotes most of her time to inspection and treatment of children with dirty heads.

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

	No:	No: of Inspections:
Premises visited	766	22
New drains	12	146
Drains repaired	106	270
Nuisances abated	198	7
W.C.'s constructed	4	
Disinfection of bedding (lots)	44	
Disinfection of houses	30	40
Common lodging houses	1	4
Food Shops		407
Bakehouses	20	21
Dairies and cowsheds	46	102
Ashbins provided	16	31
House roofs repaired	51	72
House yard paving repaired	17	31
House walls and floors repaired	23	2
Other house repairs	139	150
Factories	59	72
		Total 1542.

Number of Informal notices served (general) 82

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Number of houses (other than Council) found to be infested 7
 Number of houses (" ") disinfested 7

Housing.

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects 152
 Number of inspections made for the purpose 274
 Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects
 reasonably fit for human habitation 56
 Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in conseq-
 uence of informal action. 56

Inspection and Supervision of
Food.

Milk Supply.

The 26 cowsheds and 25 milk-scops in the area have been systematic-
 ally inspected, samples were taken by myself and tested by the County
 Bacteriologist with the following results:-

<u>Description of milk.</u>	<u>No: of Samples</u>	<u>Passed Accred- ited Standard.</u>	<u>Failed.</u>
Accredited	39	28	11
1st. Repeat	11	8	3
2nd.	3	3	-
3rd.			
Ordinary	34	26	8
1st. Repeat	8	5	3
2nd.	3	2	1
3rd.	1	1	-
4th.	-	-	-

Meat and other Foods.

Regular visits were paid to meat shops and cooked meat shops and fish shops where food is sold or prepared. Visits were also paid to the provision stores and the amount of food surrendered as unfit for human consumption during the year was 1 ton - 2 cwts - 3 qrs. - 6 lbs.

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.


<u>Premises.</u>	<u>No: of Inspections.</u>	<u>Written Notices.</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted.</u>
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	42	4	
Workshops. (including workshop Laundries)	17	1	

Rats & Mice.

During the year there were numerous complaints regarding rats and mice, all of them being dealt with either by the occupier or the Council. Most of the complaints about rats were from private houses where a few hens were being kept in the gardens. The Council properties were treated when necessary and the results were very satisfactory, the estimated number of rats killed in the district during the year was 785.

I am,

Your obedient servant,


Medical Officer of Health.

